

PICKING CITY SERIES WINNER IS SOME PROBLEM

Picking the winner of the city series between the Cubs of the National League and White Sox of the American league is no easy task. A week ago the Cubs could have been selected, and with reasonable certainty they would justify the choice.

They have the offensive and defensive power, and did have the team play necessary to victory. Whether they still will work together in harmony is the big "if" in the coming battle.

Their work in the Cincinnati series showed a decided tendency toward listlessness.

Charley Murphy and his "temperance" proclamation are responsible for the upset. The retirement of Chance is another factor. It is not even known whether he will direct the team in the battles with the South Siders. Murphy's statement that Chance would retire because of a decision reached last August is taken with a grain of salt. It is peculiar that the retirement was not announced until the present controversy arose, during which the Cub manager has called the president of the club a "liar and ingrate," flatly declaring he would not sign another contract as manager if he was forced to take the pledge.

All of these things will work to the detriment of the Cubs. They are loyal to the manager who has led them to victory in so many strenuous battles, and his retirement, practically forced by Murphy, is liable to cause them to sulk. No ball team, no matter

how perfect mechanically, ever was successful when perfect good feeling did not exist between players, manager and owner. The Boston Red Sox, until this year, are a glaring example of that argument. It is a well known fact that the interference of John I. Taylor when he was president of the team caused a bunch of good ball players to finish further down in the race every year than their ability justified.

There is one common interest



Ed Walsh.

that may hold the Cubs together in the short series beginning next Tuesday on the South Side. The winner's share of the receipts will be larger than that of the loser. The players want that additional loose change.

Mechanically, the Cubs outshine the White Sox. Ed Walsh, the pride of the South Side, and one of the three best pitchers in the American league, is the peer of the two box staffs. He trim-